



Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
Oct. 21-22, 2021

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call — Deanna Wathington, MD, Chair**

Dr. Wathington welcomed everyone, and a quorum was established.

Present

Brittany Marshall, DrPH  
Benjamin H. Hernandez, MBA  
Catherine L. Troisi, PhD, MS  
Charlene Cariou, MHS  
Deanna Wathington, MD, MPH  
Donna K. Beal, MPH  
David Reyes, DNP, RN, MN/MPH  
E. Oscar Alleyne, DrPH, MPH  
Georges C. Benjamin, MD  
Heather Walter-McCabe, JD, MSW  
Hope M. Rollins  
José Ramón Fernández-Peña, MD, MPA  
Jeanie L. Holt, MPH, MS  
Jeffrey E. Hall, PhD, MSPH, MA  
Kaye Bender, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Lisa M. Carlson, MPH  
M. Aaron Guest, PhD, MPH, MSW  
Nandi A. Marshall, DrPH, MPH  
Rachael N. Reed, DrPH, MPH  
Sarah Gareau, DrPH, MEd  
Shontelle L. Dixon, MPH  
Samantha H. Xu, MPH  
Teresa Garrett, DNP, RN, PHNA-BC

Unable to Attend

Anne E. Dressel, PhD

*Thursday, October 21, 2021*

## **II. Administrative Affairs — Deanna Wathington, MD, Chair**

- A. Approve the meeting agenda.
- B. Approve the consent agenda items:
  - 1. September Executive Board Meeting Minutes
  - 2. New Agency Members
  - 3. Leadership Appointments

**Motion: To approve the meeting and consent agenda items.**

**Outcome: Approved by acclamation.**

## **III. Discussion**

### **A. Association Update — Georges Benjamin, MD, Executive Director**

Dr. Benjamin began by providing a lengthy logistical overview and highlight of major in-person and virtual events for the 2021 APHA Annual Meeting. The board briefly discussed APHA's membership numbers compared to the registration numbers for the 2021 Annual Meeting.

Dr. Benjamin then discussed APHA's 150th anniversary celebration, which officially kicks off at the closing general session of the 2021 Annual Meeting in Denver. Various APHA departments have already begun working with various APHA leaders and member groups and planning year-long, monthly-themed activities that would conclude by the end of 2022. Additionally, APHA has hired a new staff archivist, Wendy Shay, and retained a Washington, D.C.-based communication firm, Social Driver, to help with the general communication, social media and website regarding APHA's 150th anniversary.

### **B. Treasurer's Update — Benjamin Hernandez, MBA, Treasurer**

Mr. Hernandez was delighted to share that APHA ended the fiscal year 2021 (July 2020 - June 2021) with a positive financial balance. The total (pre-audit) revenue was \$16,247,377 (over budget by \$1,657,185) and (pre-audit) expenses were \$16,823,002 (under budget by \$151,859), resulting in about \$575,625 loss from operations. However, the investment income and appreciation of \$1,543,600 led to an overall positive change in net assets. Mr. Hernandez then noted that APHA is currently undergoing its regular yearly financial audit, results of which will be shared when they are available.

He then discussed the status of fiscal year 2022. As a reminder, the fiscal year 2022 budget consists of



\$15,734,349 in proposed revenue and \$18,310,097 in proposed expenses, leading to a proposed deficit of about \$2.5 million. APHA will access its reserves as needed. As of Sept. 30, 2021 (25% of fiscal year), APHA reported revenues of \$7,136,583 (45% of budget) while total expenses were \$4,978,129 (27% of budget). He noted that it is too early into the fiscal year to read anything into the numbers, as some expenses and revenues are not included in the above numbers due to the timing of invoice receipts.

At the end of the treasurer's presentation, the board briefly discussed succession planning for the APHA treasurer's role.

**C. Joint Policy Committee Update — Jeffrey Hall, PhD, Science Board Chair & JPC Co-Chair; Shontelle Dixon, MPH, Education Board Chair & JPC Co-Chair; and Anne Dressel, PhD, Action Board Chair & JPC Co-Chair**

In September, the Joint Policy Committee reviewed 20 proposed policy statements of which 17 received positive assessment and three received negative assessment. Additionally, five latebreakers were also reviewed of which two were moved to the public hearings. The public hearings were held on Oct. 18 and Oct. 19 prior to the APHA Annual Meeting.

After the public hearings, the JPC will meet in an executive session on Monday, Oct. 25, to review the 2021 proposed policy statements and proceedings from the public hearings and will recommend which proposed policy statements be added to the Saturday, Oct. 23 Governing Council consent agenda for approval and adoption.

From an archiving standpoint, Dr. Hall announced that the 26 policy statements adopted in 2002 are up for archiving this year.

**D. Bylaws Committee and Amendments — M. Aaron Guest, PhD, Governing Council Speaker**

Dr. Guest shared the upcoming changes that the Bylaws Committee will tackle in 2022: the Action Board composition, creation of Section Treasurer and Section Student Liaison position and creation of an Affiliate Representative-at-Large position, broadening of Affiliate secretary eligibility and setting terms and limits for those positions within the Council of Affiliates. Also, the Bylaws Committee will make editorial, numerical, grammatical and conforming changes to any of its amendments as discussed. At the conclusion of Dr. Guest's presentation, the board had a robust discussion regarding the Caucus Collaborative and Student Assembly

Sectional Liaison positions.

**E. *American Journal of Public Health* Update — Hae Ra Han, PhD, *AJPH* Editorial Board Chair; Alfredo Morabia, MD, *AJPH* Editor-in-Chief; and Brian Selzer, APHA Deputy Director of Publications**

Dr. Morabia, Dr. Han, and Mr. Selzer provided a summary of the work and achievements of the *AJPH* journal and the *AJPH* board for fiscal year July 2020 through June 2021. The pandemic has impacted new journal subscriptions while renewals remained consistent despite losing some subscribers. Dr. Morabia mentioned that in 2021, *AJPH* had 3,574 submissions, about 1,700 fewer submissions than 2020. However, it is important to note, there were almost 1,500 submissions related to COVID-19 just in 2020. Of 3,574 submissions, about 12% overall were accepted for publication in the journal.

Mr. Selzer was excited to share that the journal impact factor (measures citations against number of articles published) went up from 6.5 to 9.3. A high impact factor makes the journal a coveted publication home for researchers looking for tenure and promotion. Additionally, one *AJPH* article published in May 2021 called “Association of “#covid” Versus “#chinesevirus” With Anti-Asian Sentiments on Twitter: March 9-23, 2020” by Hswen Yulin et al, was the most circulated article, ranked 4,001 out of 19 million tracked articles by Altmetrics.

For fiscal year 2021-2022, the journal has seven special funded issues and is expecting to bring in \$596,000 in revenue. APHA is also investigating how to make the journal more user-friendly such as a single sign-on system. Overall, *AJPH* continues to evaluate opportunities for practice-based issues and implement tools to help better understand the reach and influence of the journal’s content.

**F. Development Committee Update — Donna Beal, MPH, Vice Chair and Committee Chair**

Ms. Beal summarized the Development Committee’s 2021 accomplishments, which included the following: committee expansion, educational planned giving series for the Executive Board, increased donor relationship events, integration of online donation software on the APHA website and continued promotion of leadership giving and fundraising activities.

**G. Executive Session**

The board went into a closed executive session to discuss personnel committee items and board chair and vice chair election.



*Friday, October 22, 2021*

**H. APHA Your Way Implementation Update — Elizabeth Scott, PhD, CEO, and PayalMartin, MPH, Managing Director, Brighter Strategies**

As announced at the September 2021 Executive Board meeting, the APHA Member Unit Effectiveness and Engagement project was rebranded to “APHA Your Way.” Three of the five committees consisting of staff, volunteer leaders and members have begun working on implementing the following three priorities: updating APHA data systems and technology, creating a mentoring program, and, finally, enhancing the new member onboarding process. These three priorities are part of the top 10 priorities that the board approved at the May 2021 Executive Board meeting.

**I. Governing Council Agenda — M. Aaron Guest, PhD, Governing Council Speaker**

Dr. Guest directed the board to the 2021 Governing Council Annual Meeting agenda. He pointed out that there will be two fully virtual Governing Council sessions on Saturday and Tuesday morning of the 2021 Annual Meeting.

**J. Council on Education for Public Health Update — Laura Rasar King, EdD, CEPH Executive Director**

Dr. King provided a brief overview of The Council on Education for Public Health, an accrediting body for higher education in public health for schools and degree programs. APHA used to be the accrediting body for higher public health education from 1946 to 1974 until it partnered with ASPPH to create CEPH. She then gave a summary of CEPH’s mission, financial outlook, strategic plan, its 2021 activities and 2022 plans. Following the presentation, the board discussed with Dr. King the need for project and fiscal management skills, and competencies for budding and current public health professionals.

**K. Planned Giving Session #4 — Creative Ways to Support APHA — Jennifer Ostberg, CFP, Director of Wealth Strategies, Bernstein Private Wealth Management**

Ms. Ostberg discussed with the board various giving strategies such as direct gifts, pledges, tax-efficient charitable options, donor advised fund accounts and bequests. The goal of these planned giving sessions is to involve the board in development campaigns and equip them with talking points as APHA nears its major fundraising effort for the 150th Anniversary in 2022.



#### **L. Student Assembly Update — Samantha Xu, MPH, Student Assembly Chair**

Ms. Xu provided an overview of the work of the Student Assembly and its members in 2021. Some notable Student Assembly activities: monthly mentoring opportunities, networking events during major APHA events such as the National Public Health Week and the Annual Meeting, and informative newsletters connecting student members to each other and to various grants, scholarship and job opportunities.

*Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m. ET*

**The next meeting of the Executive Board (2021-2022 board cohort) will be on Oct. 27 from 1-3 p.m. ET via Zoom.**